1:Radin E-5 (1908-1913) 1923
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PREFACE

The information included in this volume was obtained during the years 1908–1913 while employed by the Bureau of American Ethnology and on private expeditions. In all cases wherever it was possible the author tried to obtain his information in Winnebago, although the English version is printed here. Owing to the fact that the Winnebago have for some time been accustomed to the use of a syllabic alphabet borrowed from the Sauk and Fox, it was a comparatively easy task to induce them to write down their mythology and, at times, their ceremonies, and then have an interpreter translate them. As the author has a fair command of Winnebago grammar, he was able to control those translations and thus insure their approximate accuracy. On account of the importance of having as accurate a record of the ceremonies as possible, those few ceremonies that were obtained in syllabic text were subsequently taken down in phonetic text.

It has been the aim of the author to separate as definitely as possible his own comments from the actual data obtained, and for that reason every chapter, with the exception of those on history, archeology, and material culture, is divided into two parts, a discussion of the data and the data itself.

Certain subjects, such as mythology, art, and music, have been entirely omitted. In order to discuss the second a comparative study of woodland art and design would have been necessary, which would have entailed a prolonged study at different museums; and to discuss the latter, specific training and knowledge were demanded, which the author does not possess.

The following monograph does not claim to be a comparative study, but simply an intensive an investigation as the time spent allowed, of an unusually interesting tribe, made under exceptionally propitious conditions. It is principally the raw material that is presented here. Throughout the work, the Indian has been allowed to tell the facts in his own way. For that reason no attempt has been made to change the English, except when it was ungrammatical or unintelligible. This will explain the simple and at times poor English of the accounts.

The work ends rather abruptly because the section on mythology and the general conclusion have been reserved for special treatment.

In conclusion, the author wishes to thank all those Winnebago who helped him since he first came among them. In particular does

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He wish to thank his interpreter, Oliver Lamere, of Winnebago, Nebraska, without whom this work could hardly have been completed, and his three main informants, Jasper Blowsnake and Sam Carley, both of Black River Falls, Wisconsin, and John Rave, of Winnebago, Nebraska.

To Prof. Franz Boas he is under especial obligations for directing him to the Winnebago, for the methods of research inculcated in him at Columbia University, and particularly for impressing upon him the necessity of obtaining as much information as possible in text.

His thanks are also due to the following individual and institutions: To Mr. C. Brown, of Madison, Wis., for a number of illustrations previously published in the Wisconsin Archeologist, and to the American Museum of Natural History, the Peabody Museum, and the Milwaukee Public Museum for numerous photographs of objects in their collections.

[22] His brother, Dr. Max Radin, he wishes to thank for financing his first visit to the Winnebago in 1908.

The manuscript was finished in 1913.

PAUL RADIN.

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, *May 11, 1916.*